

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows.

A method of encoding a frame in a communication network using ~~a plurality of~~ multiple codec modes, wherein the frame encoded by each codec mode is represented by ~~a plurality of~~ multiple parameters. The method ~~comprising~~ includes at least one stage, ~~and wherein said~~ the ~~at least one stage comprises~~ includes the steps of selecting one group from ~~a plurality of~~ multiple groups of codec modes ~~one group~~, wherein each group ~~comprises~~ includes at least one codec mode and is arranged to have a common parameter characteristic. The method further ~~comprising~~ includes encoding the frame with one of the codec modes from the selected group in dependence on ~~said~~ the common parameter characteristic.

~~(Figure 1)~~